

Congress Goondas Attack S U C Meeting at Kultali

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On April 5, about 150 armed Congress goondas, led by several notorious Congressite jotedars of Sonatikri in Kultali PS area in 24 Parganas, West Bengal, raided an SUC meeting being held at Sonatikri hat, completely foiled the proceedings of the meeting, attacked and injured several SUC leaders and organisers including Com. Probodh Purkait, a former MLA from Kultali, and Com. Naren Bhandari, and even went so far as to forcibly detain the SUC leader and former Minister, Com. Subodh Banerjee,—who went there to address the meeting,—for more than five hours.

And all these happened in presence of a police force stationed there, apparently to maintain "law and order".

The meeting was organised as a part of the party's state-wide programme in preparation for the observance of the 25th anniversary of the party on 24th April next.

A few days before the meeting, the local SUC organisers came to know that local Congress workers were preparing to attack SUC leaders and create disturbances in the meeting. Com. Probodh Purkait lodged a formal complaint with the Kultali P. S. in writing expressing apprehension of breach of peace by local Congressmen at the meeting place and requesting the police to take necessary steps so that they could hold the meeting peacefully.

On 5th April at about 4-30 p. m. SUC organisers went to the meeting place and set up microphone and loudspeakers. At about 5 p. m., Com. Banerjee, along with Com. Probodh Purkait, Com. Naren Bhandari and several others, came to the meeting place when Shri Amulya Kayal and Satyen Naskar, accompanied by 150 to 160 persons, tried to prevent them from proceeding further and even made attempts to bodily lift them to the nearby Congress office forcibly. Com. Banerjee requested them to allow them to proceed and hold the meeting, assuring them that he would personally discuss with them after the

meeting, any matter they would like to discuss. But the goondas, most of whom were drunk, turned more violent and attacked them, man-handled Com. Banerjee, used filthy abusive language, severely assaulted Com. Purkait and Com. Bhandari, causing bleeding injury to them and snatched away the wrist-watch and fountain pen of Com. Bhandari.

All the SUC leaders, including Com. Banerjee were kept under wrongful confinement upto 9-30 p. m. and were not allowed to hold the meeting. The whole thing happened in presence of the police party on the spot.

After 9-30 p. m. they caught hold of Com. Purkait again, lifted him bodily to a place about 20 to 30 feet off from the place where Com. Banerjee was wrongfully confined, again began abusing him in the most filthy language on the pretext of asking him some questions and started severely beating him again. Com. Purkait was bleeding profusely.

It was only through the efforts of the local people that the attacked SUC leaders were rescued after long four-and-a-half hours of wroagful confinement.

Two Sub-Inspectors of police, along with armed constables and DIB Officials were present at the meeting place from the very beginning. There is a police camp at a distance of several yards from the meeting place. Before the

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Revolutionary Leadership —Need of the Hour

The Congress claimed that it alone could provide stable Government in the states as well as in Centre. But the myth of this stability has exploded. Groupism, clique and coterie within the Congress have divided this party into many fragments in all the states of India. The Congress is a conglomeration of groups and individuals who have come together under the banner of the Congress party for power and pelf. But these groups after coming to governmental power through various nefarious means are at loggerheads with one another for having a greater slice of the loot of the public wealth.

In this nasty games, the the Congress party is fomenting trouble centering round regionalism, linguism and communalism. In Andhra the Congress indulged in worst type of regionalism for which the regionalism took an ugly shape resulting in the breakdown of law and order and the much vaunted stability of the Congress Government of Andhra crashed. In stead of solving the problem arising out of the Mulki Rule, the Central Congress leadership tried for an working adjustment between the various groups in the Andhra Congress. This attempt to bring about a compromise between the warring groups, failed in Andhra. In Assam it is because of these infights within the Congress, that the Central Government could not effectively intervene. On the contrary the attitude of the Central Government helped the orgy of language riot to spread throughout Assam. The various groups within the Congress fanned linguistic hatred among the various

linguistic Communities for narrow political interest. The fall of Orissa Ministry was also because of the factional fights within the Congress for having a greater slice of the public wealth. In Bihar, the anti-Pandey groups are very active against the Pandey Ministry and the mutual bickerings have been going on unabated. The same is the picture in Mysore, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Manipur etc. In West Bengal, the groups within the Congress, often violently clash with one another, resulting in killings, assaults and break down of law and order. The violent clashes between the various groups of youth Congress and Chhatra Parishad have become a daily feature in West Bengal. The manifestations of this infight within the Congress is glaringly observed even on the floor of the Assembly when a senior Congress leader like Sri Bijoy Singh Nahar crossed sword with Sri Siddhartha Sankar Ray, the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The formation

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Congress Bogey of 'Labour Unrest' Exposed

Truth has been the first casualty at the hands of the khadi-clad, so-called 'devotees of truth,' we mean, the ruling Congress leaders. This has again been brought home by a Government document entitled "Labour In West Bengal, 1972" published by the Labour Directorate of the State Government, run by the same ruling party.

For the last five years, these Congress leaders have been crying hoarse over the the UF Governments' labour policy, particularly the one adopted at the time of the first UF Ministry in 1967 by Comrade Subodh Banerjee as the Labour Minister. They used all the means and the mass media they could lay their hands on in their attempt to make the people believe that this labour policy or for that matter, backed by it, the militant labour movement was the principal cause for large number of 'closure' or 'lock-out' of factories in West Bengal and consequent large-scale loss of jobs to the working people.

The Press, particularly most of the so-called 'nationalist', 'independent' 'democratic' newspapers, which have set up a most ignominious record for their slavish service to the monopolists, vied with each other in pursuing 'yellow journalism' during this long period by repeating this lie to please their masters. No doubt the barrage of false propaganda joined in unison by the monopolists, the ruling Congress leaders, the Press and the debased intellectuals created some amount of confusion amongst the people.

The confusion got further support from the behaviour of the CPI(M) leaders. In 1967, they took a pseudo-revolutionary posture and widely misused one of the most powerful form of struggle—"gherao"—in filthy pragmatic consideration of building up their own base which was latter to be consolidated in their own trade union front, the CITU. As such, commission of

of excesses and 'gherao', even for petty gains, were patronised under cover of pseudo-revolutionary phrases.

It was then explained again and again by our Party, the enunciator of the basic guiding principle of labour policy—"non-interference of police and administration in the legitimate democratic movement of the working people," that "gherao", or any such form of movement was to be related to the basic understanding of the relationship between legality and legitimacy or morality. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader and teacher and one of the greatest Marxist-Leninist leaders of the era, in propounding the said guiding principle provided by our party in the first UF Government, not only gave the basic understanding of the dialectical relationship in a single significant sentence, that "Anything legal is not necessarily moral, humane and just" but also cautioned the labour movement against the opportunistic trends of various petty-bourgeois parties who were using the gherao form of movement in pragmatic considerations.

However, it was our Party again, that warned the working people against the slanderous propaganda of the bourgeoisie and their political-intellectual servitors and showed with convincing arguments that neither the 'gherao' nor the labour policy of the first UF Government were in anyway responsible for the large number of 'closures' and lay-offs. The principal cause of malady, it was pointed out again and again by our party, lay deeper

in the crisis-ridden bourgeois economy. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, in his famous speech in the Engineering Workers' Conference of 1967, showed that the bourgeoisie and their henchmen could instinctively feel the real revolutionary significance of the guiding principle of the labour policy provided by our party and were out to kill it in the bud. It was for this that all the hue and cry were being deliberately raised to confuse mass mind.

The truth was further vindicated later. In the Second UF Government, the labour portfolio was grabbed by CPI(M) to cripple the militant soul of the labour movement, notwithstanding the various lapses due to dominance of petty bourgeois leaderships over the labour movement in West Bengal. 'Gherao' form of movement was summarily denounced and a so-called theoretical justification was also sought to be provided thereby tending credence to the false propaganda of the bourgeoisie and their servitors. The labour movement in the State was imprisoned within the concession-hunting legal adjudicational bounds. Monetary concessions by exercise of governmental machinery was being demonstrated as the piece of achievement to the workers.

Now, this is all about the story of the recent past. Let us go straight to the propaganda itself. "Labour In

West Bengal—1972," a brochure prepared by the State Governments' Labour Directorate has nailed the lies by summing up different analyses in the following way:

"...There is a general feeling in the mind of the public that labour unrest/labour militancy is the predominant factor which compelled the employers of West Bengal to close down their units. There was much hue and cry over alleged bad industrial climate prevalent in West Bengal which rendered it impossible for many employers to run their business efficiently and profitably. In other words, labour trouble was by and large held responsible for the employers' action in term of closure. However, the distinction of the cases of closures, according to principal causes...on closures and gheraos reveals that financial stringency and economic reasons were the most dominant cause for precipitating the highest number of closure cases as a result of which largest number of workers were thrown out of employment. It is also of interest to point out again that labour trouble/labour militancy played rather insignificant role..." (page 31—emphasis ours)

The document presents some analytical figures which prove to the hilt the utter falsity of the propaganda devices of the ruling Congress party to mislead the people.

What are these facts and figures? Let us reproduce some of them.

Lay off: As many as 3,84,224 worker in 285 industries in West Bengal were laid off in 1972.* The comparative figures from 1967 onwards are like this:

Year	Number of cases	Number of men affected.
1967	321	61,115
1968	522	1,17,768
1969	210	42,967
1970	348	1,72,876
1971	251	2,41,076

(Table XII, P16)

(* Provisional figure)

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Government Survey Gives Lie to Congress Slander Against UF

<i>Year</i>	<i>Closure No. of cases</i>	<i>No. of men involved</i>
1967	123	10,253
1968	140	28,668
1969	183	32,127
1970	322	74,144
1971	143	45,588
1972 (* Provisional)	151	11,070

It was noted that 171 closures involving 28,821 workers were brought forward from the previous years. Of these, 35 undertakings, involving 17,765 workers, reopened during 1972. But 136 undertakings, involving 11,056 workers, continued to remain closed at the end of December 1972.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Lock-out No. of cases</i>	<i>No. of men involved</i>
1967	206	72,263
1968	149	94,099
1969	128	70,314
1970	128	82,826
1971	122	59,027
1972	152	97,457

Figures about loss of man-days

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total man-days lost during the year (Strikes, lock-outs)</i>	<i>man-days lost due to lock-out</i>	<i>Percentage of man-days lost due to lock-out in relation to total loss of man-days.</i>
1967	50,15,852	34,83,518	69.5
1968	67,22,548	35,65,840	53.0
1969	93,81,086	17,47,959	18.6
1970	94,25,300	36,48,217	38.7
1971	45,08,806	28,10,567	62.3
1972	37,07,120	26,76,567	72.2

(p 28)

It is to be noted here that the so-called labour trouble was not the major cause for loss of man-days in 1967, rather the conspiracy of the entrepreneurs was the main reason.

Co-relation of Gherao & Closure

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of closures</i>	<i>No. of gheraos</i>	<i>No. of closures due to gherao</i>
1967	123	811	2
1968	140	30	1
1969	183	517	1
1970	322	60	1
1971	143	20
1972	151	32

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The figures convincingly prove that the propaganda that gheraos by workers led to the closure of factories is a blatant lie.

The brochure gives the reasons for closure. But curiously enough the Survey is confined within one year i.e. 1972. Why the Directorate did not give their findings about

earlier years, particularly about 1967 when the entire Indian economy was passing through serious economic depression ? Obviously, the bureaucrats did not like to pile up the guilt of their political bosses. Anyway, let us see the result even for 1972.

<i>Causes</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>P.C. to total No. of Cases</i>	<i>No. of men involved</i>	<i>P.C. to total No. of men involved</i>
Financial stringency & other economic reasons—	35	30.17	1737	24.96
Lack of order, market depression	— 14	12.07	1707	24.53
Shortage of raw materials	— 6	5.17	67	0.96
Indiscipline	— 15	12.93	1024	14.71
Violence	— 3	2.59	70	1.01
Go-slow	— 6	5.17	1187	17.05
Strike	— 6	5.17	57	0.82

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So, the facts as presented by the Government run by the Congress have shown to what depth of falsehood the leaders of that party stooped for petty political gains. The facts are so revealing that Anandabazar Patrika, —a mouthpiece of the ruling class, could not help commenting ruefully that ruling Congress leaders, including the present Chief Minister have so long dished out untruth to the people. The paper, however, likes the people to forget its heinous role in dishing out falsehood. Minimum honesty demands apology from the ruling party leaders and their servitors, the so-called nationalist, independent papers for their disgracefully deceitful conduct with the people. But honesty is a thing unknown to these leaders and the debased intellectuals of the yellow Press of our country.

SUC Has No Link with So-called People's Front

Statement by Bihar SUC Secretary

Comrade Shankar Singh, the Secretary, Bihar State Committee of the S. U. C. I., has in a statement, clarified the Party's standpoint regarding the formation of a so-called People's Front in Bihar. The statement runs as follows :

"Our attention has been drawn to a news item circulated by P. T. I., Patna and published by a section of the Press at Patna and outside Bihar in connection with formation of a so-called People's Front. The news, as appeared in the Press is likely to create much confusion among the people as regards our Party's standpoint. We want to make it clear that the S. U. C. is not a party to the

said so-called People's Front. While S. U. C. always stands and strives for the formation of a programme-based United Front of the left and democratic parties, it is always against participating in any such front of the parties and forces of extreme right reaction with anti-communist bias and anti-people tradition as the said People's Front appears to be.

Both CPI and CPI(M) Failed to Provide Revolutionary Leadership to Indian People

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of the "Socialist forum" and the "Nehru forum" shows the Congress is a divided house and the Congress Party is a conglomeration of groups which are only after fishes and loaves. The stunt of "garibi hatao" and all the tall talks of socialism are only meant to befool the people for usurping the genuine desire of the Indian people to come out of the shackles of capitalism and to establish socialism for the unhindered progress of the country. The so-called radical slogans and social democratic postures of the Congress have no doubt, confused a section of the people and the Congress, taking advantage of this confusion is nakedly helping the monopolists to gather fabulous profit at the cost of the toiling millions.

Whatever may be the slogans of the Congress, the people of our country are gradually realising that Congress is the party of the monopolists. So the existence of various groups within the Congress, which is party of the bourgeoisie, is nothing unnatural; for a bourgeois or a pettybourgeois party is the combination of a number of groups and individuals and the leadership of such a party is also individual. But in a real working class party the existence of such groups is incompatible with the idea of collective leadership. A working class party emerges through protracted struggle for the establishment of collective leadership over the party and, in doing so, a fierce ideological struggle is waged to eliminate the group mental make-up within the party. But the existence of groups within the Congress, a bourgeois party is not its monopoly; groups do exist in big left parties like CPI and CPI(M) which pose themselves as genuine Communist parties. The undivided Communist

Party was, at that time very much praised for the discipline within the party; But it was said at that time on our behalf that this discipline was mechanical and imposed from above. We pointed out that this party (the undivided Communist Party of India) was nothing but a conglomeration of groups which have made certain working adjustments among themselves and if for any reason this adjustment failed, the party was bound to break up. Such analysis of historical importance was made on a scientific analysis of the process of development of the CPI. It was observed that such groups like Joshi groups, Ranadive group etc. were existent in the then CPI. It was seen later, that the undivided CPI was broken apart and the present CPI(M) was formed as this working adjustment failed. The present CPI and CPI(M) also are combination of groups. After the formation of the CPI(M), a number of groups came out to form CPI(ML) which was again fragmented into various splinter groups. The group fighting within the CPI come to a head recently, on the question of the party's relationship with the Congress and it is reported in the Press that stalwart leaders like Biswanath Mukherjee did not renew his membership card because of the infight within the party. The recent Press report about the CC meeting of the CPI(M) at Mazaffarpur, also reveals the group fight within the CPI(M). At the said Central Committee meeting such stalwart leaders of the CPI(M) like, Namboodiripad, Gopalan, Surjit Singh etc, did not participate and it is reported that this absence is due to group fights. Apart from this incident it is known to all that the leaders of the CPI(M) each have their separate groups and these

groups have combined under the banner of the CPI(M) with some adjustments and compromise amongst themselves. When this adjustment will fail the party will again be divided and subdivided.

The Congress is trying to create an impression through the monopoly-controlled Press that the existence of groups in a big party like the Congress is inevitable and such groups are not harmful. By such attempt the Congress is trying to shield the fact from the people that these groups are after fishes and loaves and are inevitable in a bourgeois party. The parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) are also trying to create a similar impression that various groups are inevitable in a big party and this phenomenon is nothing unnatural. This attempt is extremely mischievous. The groups within the Congress are fanning up regionalism, linguism and communalism and complete chaos and breakdown of law and order prevail in wide part of the country owing to groupism in the Congress. Again the existence of groups in the parties like CPI and CPI(M) is creating hindrance to the growth of even democratic movement within the country. The old undivided CPI was divided not for any basic difference in principles but for mere clashes between different groups and individuals of the party, though, after the division, an attempt was made to put a garb of ideological difference.

Now, can groups exist in a working class party? Can collective leadership emerge within a party riddled with groups? What are these groups? These are some of the salient questions which must be thoroughly probed.

The struggle for the emergence of collective leadership is the main struggle for giving shape to the internal structure of the working

class party on the basis of the democratic centralism. This democratic centralism develops on the basis of ideological centralism and organisational centralism. This ideological centralism is formed within the party through struggle, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and dialectical materialism, for the development of one process of thinking, oneness in approach and singleness of purpose. It is only on the basis of such a struggle that the proletarian democracy can be built up within the party. It must be borne in mind that in a class-divided society the conception of democracy is also not the same; one is bourgeois democracy and the other is proletarian democracy. The bourgeois democracy reflects private ownership, private control over production and bourgeois way of life i.e. individualism and the proletarian democracy reflects collective ownership, collective control over production and distribution and the proletarian way of life i.e. collective way of life. When the organisational centralism is built up on the basis of such ideological centralism then the party is democratically centralised. Unless the party is democratically centralised, the emergence of collective leadership is not possible and any attempt to give organisational shape of the party prior to the emergence of collective leadership will virtually make the party a mechanically centralised one and instead of developing collective leadership, the party will give birth to bureaucratic leadership on the basis of formal democracy. Since the parties like CPI and the CPI(M) avoided the complex struggle for the emergence of the collective leadership on the basis of proletarian democracy, these parties are nothing but "joint platforms for political struggle" of

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To Establish Real Revolutionary Leadership in United Movement, Strengthen SUC in Every Possible Way

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certain pettybourgeois political groups and individuals. But a real working class party can not indulge in groupism because existence of groups means existence of the parallel trends of thoughts which are possible only in a pettybourgeois party. The real revolutionary party constantly wages struggle against individualism and tries to free each and every cadre and leader of the party from its pernicious influence for the elimination of the root causes of the growth of the group mental make-up.

Through the struggle for ideological centralism, collective leadership emerges in a working class party. collective leadership is the collective knowledge of the party and this collective knowledge is best expressed through a particular leader who becomes the leader of all leaders. The emergence of Lenin in Russian soil as an expression of collective leadership and that of Mao Tse-tung in China were necessary pre-conditions for the building up of the communist parties in their respective countries. But these painstaking struggles for the emergence of the collective leadership on the basis of democratic centralism were totally absent in the process of building up of the parties like CPI and CPI(M). So, leaders of different groups have accommodated themselves in these parties under formal democracy—which is in existence even in a bourgeois party—and the democratic centralism and the phenomenon of the leader of all leaders, who is the leader, teacher and the guide, are totally absent in these parties. The centralism of these parties are mechanical, where the relation between the leader and the cadre is bureaucratic in nature. In a mechani-

cally centralised party a batch of bureaucratic leaders makes all the decisions and a batch of blind followers execute the decision and there is no living link between the leaders and cadres in the process of decision making. This phenomenon bedevilled the so-called Indian Communist movement and, as a result, in spite of pious wishes and many sacrifices on the part of many cadres, the parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) never emerged as working class party, not withstanding their communist nomenclature. As a matter of fact, under the garb of Marxism-Leninism these parties are nothing but pettybourgeois parties. The non-Marxian outlook reflected in determining the strategy of the revolution, the way these pseudo-revolutionary parties conduct various movements, the cultural and ideological standards reflected by the leaders and the cadres of these parties and the process of the development of these parties clearly show the pseudo-revolutionary character of these parties.

As the undivided CPI used to differentiate between Nehru and Patel as progressive and reactionary and support Nehru against Patel for a prolonged period, so the CPI is at present supporting an imaginary progressive section against an imaginary reactionary section within the Congress—the main enemy of the people. Sri Bhupesh Gupta, the CPI leader, boasted the other day that his party helped in the rehabilitation of the Congress. The search for progressive elements within the Congress by the CPI may go on eternally, but no such progressive section exists in the Congress. Thus, by supporting the Congress, the representative of monopoly section of the Indian bourgeoisie,

the CPI has dealt a blow to the cause of Indian revolution from the right direction.

The Congress, notwithstanding its radical postures, is gradually exposed and the confusion among a section of people about the Congress is also getting cleared up day by day.

The CPI, by aligning itself with this reactionary Congress has isolated itself from the left movement. But the role of the CPI(M) which assumes militant anti-Congress postures in public meetings and Press statements has also helped the rehabilitation of the Congress. While analysing the character of the Indira wing of the Congress after the Congress split, the CPI(M) hailed the Indira wing of the Congress as progressive and termed the measures like bank nationalisation—which was made by the ruling Congress to serve the aggregate interest of the monopoly capitalism in India—as a progressive measure. The CPI(M), on the one hand by helping the projection of a so-called progressive image of the Congress and, on the other, by disrupting the unity of the UF—the only alternative to the Congress, through its left opportunistic policies,—helped in the rehabilitation of the Congress. But evidently to exploit the militant anti-Congress sentiment of a section of its cadres, the CPI(M) termed the Congress as semi-facit. This self-contradictory stand of the CPI(M) about the Congress has brought about confusion in the left movement of the country and so the struggle for the restoration of the democratic atmosphere is not gaining momentum. And it provided an opportunity to parties like RSP to take advantage of the prevailing confusion, unilaterally flout the unanimous decision of the Left Front and join the rigged Assembly in West Bengal.

All these phenomena show that the parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) are incapable of steering the left movement of the country in the correct direction. So the necessity of establishing ideological and organisational leadership of a real working class party is of supreme importance for leading the left and democratic movement in the correct direction. Without critically examining the question of leadership, it is impossible to accomplish the task of leading the left democratic movement to its logical culmination. It is the SUCI which, on all critical questions provided correct analysis; but since the the SUCI has not yet gained strength to that extent, it has not been possible for itself to steer the left democratic movement of our country. This party has developed as a genuine working class party and the collective leadership of the party has been concretised in Comrade Shibdas Ghose, the leader, teacher and the guide of the party. The necessity of strengthening this party—the SUCI and putting it in the helm of the left democratic movement of our country is the need of the hour. The people must take this pledge on 24th of April—the auspicious occasion of the 25th anniversary day of the SUCI.

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Manager
Proletarian Era

Left Leaders Condemn Fascist Gangsterism by Congress

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eyes of the police officials present at the meeting place all these unlawful things took place, but, let alone arresting the miscreants, the police did not take any action against the miscreants even though Com. Banerjee requested the police officials to take necessary action against the miscreants so that the meeting could be held peacefully.

It is to be noted here that one of the main aims of the miscreants was to prevent the SUC leaders from holding the meeting. The policemen on duty, who stood as statues during the whole period from 4-30 p. m. to 10.00 p. m., thought it fit to move in only after the miscreants succeeded in disrupting the meeting completely. This explicitly proved their connivance with the miscreants.

In the circumstances, it is a blatant lie to say that there were free fights between the SUC and the Congress workers at the meeting place and that the police acted promptly and did their duty, as had been dished out by the police authorities to be broadcast by the AIR and subsequently to the Press. The monopoly-controlled Press readily obliged the authorities by flashing the police version and underplaying the actual reports.

Strongly condemning this fascist gangsterism by the ruling Congress, Comrades Jyoti Basu (CPI-M), Nihar Mukherjee (SUCI), Makhan Paul (RSP), Ashok Ghosh (FB), Jyoti Bhattacharjee (WPI), Sudhin Kumar (RCPI), Ram Chatterjee (MFB) and Rabi Dutta (BBC) said in a statement issued on April 6, that "the deliberate indifference shown by the police all along once again proved to what extent the Congress rulers have destroyed the democratic atmosphere in the State to further their narrow party interest. This once again proved that there is no Rule of Law in West Bengal".

"We strongly condemn this fascist gangsterism by Congress hoodlums and urge upon the people to come forward against the ever-increasing fascist attacks on democratic rights and movements of our people," the statement added.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI, in a letter to the Prime Minister, Sm. Indira Gandhi, on the same date, informed her of the incident and urged upon her to take necessary steps to stop further recurrence of such fascist attacks on democratic rights and movements and to bring the culprits to the book. He also sent her a copy of the statement issued by the Left leaders. Copies of the letter and the statement have also been sent to the Union Home Minister, Mr. Uma Shankar Dixit, the Governor of West Bengal, Mr. Dias and the Chief Minister, Mr. Ray.

On April 7, Com. Subodh Banerjee, in a letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Ray, gave the details of the incident, including the names of the local jotedars and Congress leaders who led the attack and the role played by the policemen on duty, copies of which also have been sent to the Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister, and the Governor of West Bengal.

Narrating the entire incident, Comrade Subodh Banerjee put forth certain basic questions which have arisen over the attitude of the ruling party towards the Opposition and the destruction of all norms of democracy and the last remnants of 'administrative neutrality'. "How is it", he asked, "that Congress workers violently prevented us from holding the meeting, broke the meeting, tried to lift us bodily to the Congress office, kept us under wrongful confinement for hours together, used filthy abusive language against us, manhandled me and severely assaulted Shri Probodh

Purkait, a former M.L.A. and Shri Naren Bhandari, a respected local school teacher, causing bleeding injuries to them, in presence of the police officials? How is it that the police, let alone arresting, did not do anything to prevent the unlawful assembly of Congress workers from committing the above-mentioned unlawful and criminal acts? Is it because the law-breakers were Congressmen that the police did not act according to law? Is this the way the police is going to behave in your Congress regime in dealing with miscreants engaged in violently attacking political

opponents of the Congress? Is it the sort of democracy you intend to bring about in our country? If Naren Babu, a respected school teacher, Probodh Babu, a former M.L.A. and a well-known peasant leader and I are treated in this unlawful way by Congressmen under the very nose of the police, can it be claimed that normal democratic atmosphere prevails and law and order has been firmly established in West Bengal, a claim made by you frequently?

"I request you to please let me know what steps you intend to take against the miscreants".

Bihar State Wheat Levy Policy Criticised

Comrade Shankar Singh, the Secretary, Bihar State Committee of Socialist Unity Centre of India had issued the following statement on 31st March last regarding the State Government's imposition of wheat levy on peasants and its wheat procurement policy:

The decision of the Bihar Government to impose wheat levy on peasants, to be effective from 1st April, 1973, as a part of its wheat procurement policy, as it stands even after the suggested amendments, is basically an anti-people and wrong policy and deserves to be opposed by all right-thinking people. Except causing much sufferings to the bulk of the poor and middle peasants in the hands of the new zamindar class of bureaucratic officers and the police, this policy of the Government is neither going to solve the food problem nor would it act as an effective step to check rise in prices. In fact the present policy of the Government immediately on its declaration has caused all stocks of wheat, small or big, to go underground, resulting in panic among the peasants as well as people in general and a feeling of uncertainty in the market

which is being and will be utilised by the black traders to further aggravate the situation and to fish in that troubled water.

Firstly, with a view to checking the rise in prices and to curbing racket in food grains by traders, it was necessary not only to take over the wholesale trade in food grains but to nationalise the entire trade of food grains (both wholesale and retail). Without doing that the Government has kept the door open for the former wholesale dealers to go on doing the same mischief in food grains trade by converting themselves into various retailers and in this way it has shamefully betrayed the people's cause.

Secondly, wheat levy should not be imposed on the basis of acreage of land but it must be on the basis of actual surplus of production after

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155 Murdered in West Bengal During Past 3 Months

On April 2 last, the Police Commissioner of Calcutta, Mr Sunil Chowdhury, in his report to the Press said that only 11 cases of murder took place in Calcutta during the first quarter of this year, while, according to reports published in The Statesman, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Hindusthan Standard, Ananda Bazar Patrika, Jugantar, Basumati etc., during the period between January 1, and March 31, 1973, at least 14 murders were committed in Calcutta during the period. So, the Police Commissioner's claim, that law and order situation has improved, is unfounded, baseless.

So also the claim often made by the Chief Minister, Mr S.S Ray, which he repeated during his speech on the on the West Bengal Police (Amendment) Bill in the Assembly on February 28 last about the restoration of law and order in West Bengal, stands exposed as a 'bogus claim' if we take into account the reports published in the aforementioned dailies

Right from the Chief Minister down to the lowest rank cadre, Congressmen spare no pains in their efforts to make the people believe that they have 'restored' what they say the

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'law and order' in the State. And, in this, the ruling Congress bosses get effective support from the monopoly-controlled Press, who not only give wide publicity to this boastful claim of the Congress leaders, but also, in order substantiate that claim, often deliberately suppress or underplay the news of such incidents which may disprove this bogus claim.

Nevertheless, in spite of strong vigilance on their part, everyday news of some new acts of crime slip into the columns of one or other of these dailies.

A compilation of reports of murders, political clashes (Congress attacking other parties and clashes between rival factions of the Congress), dacoity, snatching, smuggling theft and raping, as published

in The Statesman, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Hindusthan Standard, Ananda Bazar Patrika, Jugantar, Basumati etc., during the period between JANUARY 1 and MARCH 31, gives a staggering statistics of 155 deaths, and 469 injuries in 532 incidents.

For the convenience of the public in general and especially the Congress leaders and police officials, we place below the compiled table which will show the real law and order situation in the State, while reminding them that these are only a part of the total number of such incidents most of which were either motivatedly ignored or deliberately suppressed.

Period : 1st January '73 to 31st March '73

Nature of incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
1. Non-political clashes —	171	101	113
2. Political clashes (Cong. attacking others) —	85	11	225
3. Intra-party clash of Congress —	22	3	47
4. Dacoity —	147	37	70
5. Snatching —	38	1	11
6. Smuggling —	22	—	3
7. Theft —	44	2	—
8. Raping —	3	—	—
Total —	532	155	469

Obviously these figures are far below the actual number of events occurred which have not been and can never be covered fully.

The above figures include smuggling by policemen (at Titagarh on 25.3.73 and at

Burdwan) stabbing by police (on 25.3.73 in Calcutta) and eve-teasing by CRP men (on 9.3.73 in Dinhati P.S) and excludes innumerable cases of police atrocity over the common masses.

For example, we may cite the April 5 Kultali incident, which appeared elsewhere in this issue. The incident, in which the ruling party members raided an opposition party meeting, beat up leaders of the said party, tried to bodily lift a top ranking Opposition leader, and finally prevented the opposition party from holding its meeting—did not appear at all in three of the monopoly-controlled dailies. And in the rest two, where it could some how find a place, it appeared with a twist in the form of high police official virtually denying the fact.

The next day, the Press carried the false and distorted version of the police in full. Comrade Subodh Banerjee in his letter to the Chief Minister on April 7 described in detail the incident with names and where-

To crown it all, when the issue was raised by an RSP member in the Assembly, a Congress Minister, Mr. Jainal Abedin shamelessly came forward to defend the fascist gangsterism by Congress goondas as a "popular action"!

When Ministers come forward with such naked patronage of gangsterism by the jotedar, anti-socials and goondas, is it not only natural that the anti-social elements—with a boosted up morale—will carry on their criminal activities, without having any fear of police interference, far more zealously than ever?

We call upon all sections of people to build up a strong and effective organised public opinion which alone can resist this dangerous fascistic attitude and behaviour of the ruling Congress and help restore the democratic norms and ideals.

Bihar SUC Secretary Criticises State Government's Wheat Levy Policy

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leaving the quantity required for the consumption of each family at the rate of 13 mds. per head annually. Any other basis of imposing levy is bound to act as a repressive measure against the poor and middle peasants.

We call upon the various left and democratic political parties and mass organisations in the State, who are opposed to the present levy of wheat and the anti-people food policy of the Government, to immediately unite to organise a State-wide struggle to resist the oppressive acts of the Government machinery and to force the Government to revise its present wheat procurement and trading policy suitably.

abouts of the culprits and also how the policemen stationed on the spot played a partisan role by standing as silent spectators during the five-and-a-half-hour drama. The monopoly Press deliberately suppressed the news.

Thousands of Peasants Join Birbhum KKMf Conference

Suri (Birbhum), March 31—Thousands of peasants joined the open session of the district conference of West Bengal Krishak O Khet Mazoor Federation held here on March 30.

Local Congress bosses and the Youth Congress gangsters, with the active co operation of the local police, launched an all-out terror campaign with the object of desisting the peasants from joining the peasants rally. In Suri, Murarai and Dubrajpur PS areas, they raided the houses of poor peasants and agricultural labourers and threatened them with severe consequences if they joined the KKMf conference. They even tried to get several important SUC organisers arrested in their bid to foil the conference. But, braving all intimidation and terrorisation by the ruling Congress goondas and the Police, thousands of poor peasants and agricultural labourers joined the rally at the open session of the conference.

Addressing the rally, Comrade Subodh Banerjee, President of the West Bengal KKMf, said that the people must realise that all their day-to-day struggles on immediate demands must be linked up with the ultimate struggle for emancipation of the peasants and workers through the overthrowing of the present capitalist social order and establishment of a socialist society. To achieve this ultimate objective it was essential that genuine revolutionary leadership was established over the masses and strengthened

further. Only SUCI could provide the exploited Indian peasants and workers with this revolutionary leadership. He urged the peasants to come forward and unite under the banner of the SUCI.

Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI in his address welcomed the heroic peasants of Birbhum for their glorious record of struggle against oppression and exploitation. Explaining the present critical situation, he asked the peasants to build up peasants' movement on a correct basis which could only be done through the correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism as elaborated by our leader and teacher, Com. Shibdas Ghosh.

Com. Prativa Mukherjee and Com. Brojogopal Saha also addressed the rally. Com. Ziad Ali Boxi presided over the open session.

The delegates' session, held on March 31, was attended by over 500 delegates from different thana areas. Comrade Brojogopal Saha presented the organisational report. Com. Mangal Hemrom moved the main resolution. It was supported by Com. Quddus Ali.

A 25-member strong district KKMf Committee was formed with Comrade Bazle Ahmed as President and Com. Brojogopal Saha as Secretary.

Power Shortage Leads to Massive Lay-off in West Bengal

Com. Fatick Ghosh Demands

Immediate Government Steps

Comrade Fatick Ghosh, General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) West Bengal State Committee and a member of the State Labour Advisory Board, Government of West Bengal, has in a letter addressed to the State Labour Minister, demanded immediate holding of a meeting of the Advisory Board over the issue of frequent and wide-spread load shedding of power as result of which large number of workers in engineering, jute, rubber and other industries are facing lay off.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the State Government had convened a meeting of the Advisory Board on 28th April '73, but this time also without incorporating in the agenda the issue of power shortage and consequent mass-scale lay off of workmen.

Comrade Fatick Ghosh, in his letter, dated 11th April, said:

"As a member of the Labour Advisory Board, West Bengal, I suggest that a meeting of the Board be immediately convened for discussing the serious situation that has arisen due to frequent and wide-spread load-shedding of power as a result of which quite a large number of workmen are facing lay-off with half pay, even in many cases without any pay.

"You would also remember that we suggested this item for discussion in the Board at its meetings on 11-9-72 and 19-9-72 and the matter, though placed as item no. 4 did not actually came up for discussion at the meetings.

"After that, during this long spell of eight months, no meeting of the Board, has been convened despite repeated requests made by me and some other members.

"Since then, although the situation has further deteriorated, the Govern-

ment have not found time to convene a meeting over the issue.

"I hope, you would convene a meeting of the Board in response to our request at any early date."

Copies of this letter have been sent to all members of the Board with the request to press for a meeting on the above subject to the Government.

No response to this letter has come from the Minister as yet.

Rural Electrification Balloon Bursts

The Rural Electrification Corporation, a Central Government undertaking, has decided to stop its aid to West Bengal State Electricity Board for its village electrification and shallow tube-well energising schemes.

For the proposed electrification of 10,000 villages and 35,000 tube-wells in West Bengal the REC made two initial payments sometime after the new Congress Ministry had taken over.

After the second instalment of financial help, REC officials took a dim view of the performance of the West Bengal SEB because very few of its specifications have been fulfilled.

Out of the 10,000 villages proposed to be electrified, about 3,000 have been 'electrified' in the sense that a transmission line has been drawn nearly. The question of connexions has not yet been taken up. In addition, to make matters worse, only about 2,000 out of the targeted 34,000 tube-wells have been energised.

This failure of the WBSEB has provided the REC with a plea to stop further aid for implementation of the proposed schemes.

No comment.

IN OBSERVANCE OF 25th ANNIVERSARY

SUC DAY CENTRAL RALLY

AT SHAHEED MINAR MAIDAN

24th APRIL • 5 P.M.

MAIN SPEAKER : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

PRESIDENT : COMRADE SUBODH BANERJEE